GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:646
ANSWERED ON:03.03.2008
AGRICULTURAL CENSUS
Bhakta Shri Manoranjan

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has completed Seventh Agricultural Census in the country to identify the data need for planning and development requirements of world class Census of Agriculture;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the strategies planned for improving the situation on Agriculture in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE(SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA)

(a): Yes, Sir. The Seventh Agriculture Census with reference year 2000-01 has already been completed and the data is available for public use on the Department's website (http://agcensus.nic.in).

(b): As per Agriculture Census 2000-01, the number of operational holdings, operated area and average size of holdings were 119894 thousand, 159394 thousand hectares and 1.33 hectare respectively.

(c): The revitalization of the agriculture sector, improvement of agricultural production and productivity and enhancement of the income of the farmers are some of the major thrust areas identified by the Government for focused and concerted action.The National Policy for farmers, 2007 incorporating the key recommendations of the National Commission for farmers has been approved by the Government of India in order to improve economic viability of farming by substantially increasing the net income of farmers. Two new schemes, i.e. Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana, with an objective, inter alia, to incentivise the States to increase public investment in agriculture and allied sectors and the "National Food Security Mission" to enhance the production of rice, wheat and pulses, with overall proposed allocation of Rs.25,000 crore and Rs.4882.48 crore respectively, have been launched recently. A comprehensive credit policy is in place to enhance flow of credit for agriculture and debt restructuring of outstanding loans for farmers in distress. Government of India has also taken up Marketing reforms being implemented by State Governments. Natural Resources Management has been given focused attention for sustainable agricultural development in the country. National Rainfed Area Authority has been formed to provide knowledge inputs for development of rainfed areas of the country.The diversification of agriculture into horticulture has been promoted in a big way by implementing the National Horticulture Mission for whole of the country.